

Media Availability – January 31, 2022
Potential questions from the media

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Emergency Services

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- **Were there any injuries/major incidents during the demonstrations? There are reports a woman was in distress on Parliament Hill and taken by ambulance**

○ *“Due to the privacy of individuals, the City of Ottawa cannot comment on any specific cases. However, we can confirm that emergency lanes have been maintained and the Paramedic Service has continued to meet operational demands. Events of this size and nature garner lots of social media activity, which sometimes contain misinformation.*

○ *You may have seen posts on social media a death was caused by delays in paramedic responses. I would like to confirm here that the matter has been reviewed and there have been no calls identified relating to these reports.*

We were able to maintain emergency lanes and meet operational demands all weekend.

Commented [CR1]: From Kim's Sunday noon update: The Ottawa Paramedic Service treated 17 patients associated with the demonstration. Ten were minor injuries and seven were transported to hospital.

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- **What kind of permits were given to the organizers?**

○ *“The City did not grant the organizers a permit this weekend. Organizers of demonstrations and marches do not technically require a permit to protest. The right to peacefully demonstrate falls under the Canadian Charter of Rights & Freedoms.”*

- **We heard that organizers were given permission to use RCGT Park. Why?**

○ *“The City of Ottawa did not grant a permit to organizers of the demonstration. Recreation, Cultural and Facility Services (RCFS) facilitated access for overflow of vehicles at the direction of Ottawa Police Services (OPS) to alleviate congestion in the downtown core. The intent was not for long-term/overnight stay.”*

- **Were there emergency response impacts? Were emergency lanes maintained?**

○ *“OPS and the City focused on maintaining emergency lanes and we can confirm there were no impacts to emergency operations.”*

- **Were vehicles towed? How many? (BLRS)**

○ *“Since Friday, By-law and Regulatory Services (BLRS) has towed 28 vehicles in association with the protest for impeding traffic, and traffic and blocking*

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laneways.

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- What was By-law's role this weekend? How did they support Ottawa Police and what kind of infractions were incurred? (BLRS)

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- By-law and Regulatory Services' role is to support the lead enforcement agency, Ottawa Police, to keep demonstrations peaceful by assisting with parking control and other issues as requested by Ottawa Police.

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- Did BLRS enforce masks not being worn in restaurants? How did BLRS assist businesses who struggled with this over the weekend?

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- How did By-law address noise disruptions? How many complaints did the City receive about noise, parking, gatherings and masks? (BLRS)

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- Are there major reports of road damage from all the heavy vehicles in the downtown core?

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- Service requests relating to demonstrations/protests were redirected to Ottawa Police, including noise and complaints relating to Provincial Regulations, for triage and prioritization.

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- By-law and Regulatory Services will continue to support the lead enforcement agency, Ottawa Police, by assisting with parking control and other issues as requested.

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- BLRS received 195 requests for service relating to noise, and 21 requests for service relating to Provincial Regulations which included gathering and mask violations.

- Did the City have to implement its contingency plans for accessing emergency lanes? (EOC)

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Roads

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- Did the City let truckers/participants in the demonstration camp out on Queen Elizabeth Drive? (Traffic Services). This should go to OPS. My understanding is that this road along with SLAM and GEC were selected as part of OPS traffic

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management plan as overflow. Note that these roads are owned by NCC so question about giving permission to camp out would have to be answered by NCC.

- **Are there major reports of road damage from all the heavy vehicles in the downtown core?**

No reports (PWESD)

- Will the City be closing streets today/tomorrow to accommodate the demonstrators who are still here? (Traffic Services) OPS should answer this one. What we can say is that there are still many road closures in place. Residents should go to the City's interactive traffic webpage to get the most up-to-date information in terms of what roads are still closed. We will support any road closures that OPS requires as we have done all weekend through updates via the city's Ottawa traffic twitter account and interactive traffic webpage
- Were there issues with allowing essential workers to cross over into downtown (Traffic Services). This should go to OPS as they have designated the Chaudiera bridge as bridge for essential workers (although I understand only those in the Health area are being permitted) and they are managing who can use the bridge. What we can say is that with only 2 bridges open for regular traffic (Champlain and McDonald Cartier), we observed long delays for motorists trying to get from Quebec to Ontario (at times over an hour to get across). We didn't see a lot of delays for motorists traveling from Ontario to Quebec. We expect these delays to continue while bridges continue to be closed.

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Other questions

- **Is the City aware of any staff who participated in the demonstrations? What is the City's stance on this? (OC Transpo tow truck driver)**

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- (PIMR)

- **How cooperative were organizers with the City?**

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- (EOC) The City and OPS have been engaged with organizers since last week. We are doing our best to ensure we remain available and nimble as the demonstration continues in the downtown core.

- **What City services will continue to be impacted tomorrow (Tuesday)?**

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- We are monitoring the situation closely. Any service impacts will be communicated the day before with a Public Service Announcement and on our social media channels. (EOC)

* **How long will the City stay under activated operations?**

- We are monitoring the situation. Our emergency operations group is working tirelessly at maintaining the safety of the public. We plan on staying in activated operations as long as required.

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* **Are there designated parking areas for demonstrators?**

- The City assisted the OPS in planning for parking areas and staging areas. Unfortunately due to the sheer size and number of vehicles, there were many vehicles parked in undesignated areas.

The City and OPS worked hard to maintain emergency lanes and tow vehicles where required. (EOG)

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* **What is the City's total costs for the weekend?**

- As we are still in the emergency, this information is not yet available. Costs will only be known once the emergency concludes and we are able make final calculations.

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Questions that should go to OPS with context from City staff

* **Will the City be closing streets today/tomorrow to accommodate the demonstrators who are still here?**

- From Phil Landry: OPS should answer this one. What we can say is that there are still many road closures in place. Residents should go to the City's interactive traffic webpage to get the most up to date information in terms of what roads are still closed. We will support any road closures that OPS requires as we have done all weekend through updates via the city's Ottawa traffic Twitter account and interactive traffic webpage.

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* **Were there issues with allowing essential workers to cross over into downtown**

- From Phil Landry: This should go to OPS as they have designated the Chaudiere bridge as bridge for essential workers (although I understand only those in the Health area are being permitted) and they are managing who can use the bridge. What we can say is that with only 2 bridges open for regular traffic (Champlain and McDonald Cartier), we observed long delays for motorists trying to get from Quebec to Ontario (at times over an hour to get accross). We didn't see a lot of delays for motorists traveling from Ontario to Quebec. We expect these delays to continue while bridges continue to be closed.

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